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SIPDIS

AF/W FOR BOOTH, FRENCH
AF/RAS FOR ENGLE, BITTRICK
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CJCS FOR DOM

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TAGS: PREL MASS NI ECOWAS
SUBJECT: NIGERIA: POST-ACRI/OFR PROGRAMMING - NIGERIA IS IN

REF: ADDIS ABABA 1425

¶11. (U) SUMMARY: The inter-agency team consulting with African countries and sub-regional organizations on future planning for an Africa peace support program met with ECOWAS Secretariat staff and GON officials during their April 10-12

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visit to Nigeria. The team presented initial program planning based on the notions of flexibility, sustainability, and making the program compatible with other forms of security assistance. Moreover, they raised the importance of coordinating with regional/sub-regional organizations. The program ideas received strong support at each of the stops during the visit, as well as useful suggestions from interlocutors. END SUMMARY.

¶12. (U) Gregory Engle (Coordinator of the Africa Crisis Response Initiative, ACRI), Theresa Whelan (Director, OSD/ISA/Africa) and CAPT George Dom, USN (Joint Staff) visited Abuja April 10-12 to consult with the ECOWAS Secretariat and GON officials regarding future planning for

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an Africa peace support program. (They were accompanied throughout by Defense Attache and PolMilOff, and to the Ministry of Defense by the Ambassador.) Because of the number of consultations, this message is divided by meeting, and serves to highlight reactions and comments of interlocutors.

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ECOWAS
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¶13. (U) The team met with ECOWAS Deputy Executive Secretary MG Cheikh Diarra and his staff at the ECOWAS Secretariat on April 10. Diarra and his team expressed support for the new program. Suggestions included:

- The program should include training to improve the cooperation between military forces and their political leadership, emphasizing the chain of command in a democracy.
- The program needs to be responsive to realities in Africa, training for peace enforcement and non-permissive environments.
- A framework could be created whereby the training could be done under the ECOWAS umbrella.
- Any equipment provided should be interoperable among member-states. Other donor programs should therefore be considered.
- OFR was ideal since it created discrete units that did not require a long logistics tail.
- The training should include proper treatment of refugees, IDPs and should emphasize human rights.

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MINISTRY OF DEFENSE
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¶14. (U) Minister of Defense LTG (ret.) T.Y. Danjuma and

Minister of State for Army, Lawal Batagarawa, expressed support for the program. Noting that Nigeria's views towards ACRI had not changed, the Defense Officials wanted the program to mirror Operation Focus Relief as closely as possible. Batagarawa asked about the financial, human and time resources available, and while accepting that it was too early to nail these down, emphasized that this would be important to define. Danjuma said that detailed planning for the program would be the responsibility of the Defense Chiefs. Additionally, the MOD Officials:

- Expressed strong support for the train-the-trainer concept.
- Wanted disaster relief training included in Nigeria's program.
- Warned us not to spread the program's resources too thin.

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SERVICES
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15. (U) The team saw Chief of Defense Staff (CDS) Admiral Ibrahim Ogohi and his general staff, as well as Chief of Army Staff (COAS), LTG Alexander Ogomudia next. Ogomudia was the most animated, but the assembled all reacted positively to the program, and to the early consultation. The CDS said he and his Chiefs would welcome a visit by the program planning team, and looked forward to the program development process. The CDS and COAS emphasized:

- The importance of logistics training.
- That humanitarian and disaster assistance could not be solely the responsibility of the military -- civilian agencies had to lead.
- The need for civilian agencies and NGOs to play arbitration and other non-military roles in peace operations

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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16. (U) The legislators, including the Chairman of the House Defense Committee and the Chairmen of the Senate Committees on Army, Navy and Air Force (Representative Ahmed Maiwada and Senators Salisu Maitori, Bello Yusuf and Sylvanus Ngele) thanked the team profusely for including them in their consultations. While offering few suggestions regarding the program, the Chairmen said they would offer their full support and looked forward to their additional involvement in planning. Senator Nuhu Aliyu, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Security and Intelligence (and former senior police officer) asked that planning for the program include training for dealing with cases of internal communal violence in Nigeria, since the military regularly supports the police in that role. He also requested the program include training for the police. Aliyu understood when Whelan explained that this was solely a military program based on regulations under U.S. law. He was also pleased to hear the Embassy was starting a program of assistance for the Nigerian police.

17. (U) COMMENT: While the modalities of the general program for Africa and the Nigeria-specific program have yet to be resolved, Nigeria is clearly ready and excited to participate. The more the Nigeria program looks like OFR, the more support it will receive here, but all of the interlocutors understood the limits of funding, especially early on. In an African context, the decision by the inter-agency to consult early in this process was an excellent one. END COMMENT.

18. (U) The DOS/DOD/JCS team cleared this cable.a
Andrews